

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for a soft handoff, comprising:

a plurality of base station transceivers; and

a mobile station configured to:

measure power of signals transmitted by said plurality of base station transceivers;

identify each base station transceiver whose measured signal power is greater than a threshold;

place indicators of said identified base station transceivers to a first set;

transmit the indicators;~~and~~

use the indicators in the active set to search for the direction message; and

establish a traffic channel to at least one of the identified base station transceivers not in communication with the mobile station via a traffic channel.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile station places indicators of said identified base station transceivers to a first set by being configured to:

determine indicators of said identified base station transceivers not included in the first set; and

place the determined indicators to the first set.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile station transmits the indicators by being configured to: transmit the indicators from the first set.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile station transmits the indicators by being configured to:

determine indicators of said identified base station transceivers not included in the first set; and

transmit the determined indicators.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plurality of base station transceivers are configured to:

receive transmission of indicators; and

send a direction message if a base station transceiver is identified by the indicators.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mobile station is further configured to: receive a direction message.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~of claim 1~~ of claim 6 wherein the direction message comprises an identification of at least one neighboring base station transceiver.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said mobile station is further configured to: adjust the indicators in the first set in accordance with the direction message.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a first set of said plurality of base station transceivers is configured to: provide coverage to a cell in a cellular system.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a second set of said plurality of base station transceivers is configured to: provide coverage to a sector of a cell in a cellular system.

12. (Currently amended) In a communication system consisting of a plurality of base station transceivers transmitting signals on at least two channels and at least one mobile station capable of receiving the channels a method for a soft handoff, comprising:

measuring a signal strength for each of received plurality of first channels at a mobile station;

identifying the first channels whose measured signal power is greater than a threshold at the mobile station;~~and~~

placing indicators of said identified first channels to a first set at the mobile station; and searching for a direction message using the indicators contained in the first set.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said placing indicators of said identified first channels to a first set, comprises:

determining indicators of said identified first channels not included in the first set; and placing said determined indicators to the first set.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a direction message at the mobile station.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

adjusting the indicators of the first set in accordance with the direction message.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

transmitting the indicators from the mobile station.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said transmitting the indicators comprises:

transmitting the indicators placed to the first set.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said transmitting the indicators comprises:

determining indicators of said identified first channels not included in the first set; and transmitting said determined indicators.

20. (Currently amended) In a communication system consisting of a plurality of base station transceivers transmitting signals on at least two channels and at least one mobile station capable of receiving the channels an apparatus for a soft handoff, comprising:

a mobile station configured to:

measure a signal strength for each of received plurality of first channels;

identifying the first channels whose measured signal power is greater than a threshold;

~~and~~

placing indicators of said identified first channels to a first set, and

search for a direction message using the indicators contained in the first set.

21. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein said mobile station places indicators of said identified first channels to a first set by being configured to:

determine indicators of said identified first channels not included in the first set; and

place said determined indicators to the first set.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said mobile station is further configured to: receive a direction message.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said mobile station is further configured to: adjust the indicators in the first set in accordance with the direction message.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said mobile station is further configured to: transmit the indicators.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said mobile station is configured to: transmit the indicators placed to the first set.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said mobile station is configured to:

determine indicators of the identified first channels not included in the first set; and
transmit the determined indicators.